

# PesticideNOTES

A publication of the  
Washington State  
Department of  
Agriculture Pesticide  
Management Division

**JUNE 2000**

## A toll free link to the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Management Division

**1-877-301-4555**

To improve customer service, the Pesticide Management Division has installed a toll free, menu-driven telephone system. The following information should help you easily navigate to your desired destination.

### WHAT WILL THE TOLL FREE LINE DO FOR ME?

It will connect you to any Pesticide Management program or office. However, it will not connect you to other Department of Agriculture programs.

### WHAT SERVICES CAN I ACCESS?

- Reservations for testing through an electronic, automated integrated voice response system.
- Directions to our six regional testing locations.

- Answers to questions about pesticide laws, licensing and recertification.
- Report possible pesticide misuse, drift, or an improper structural pest inspection.
- Get help registering pesticide products, including special local needs and section 18 emergency exemptions.
- Get help registering fertilizers or commercial animal feeds.
- Get help participating in the Waste Pesticide Collection Program.
- Directions to all Pesticide Management Division offices.
- Information on and help with Department of Agriculture's Water Quality Program.

### HOW DO I USE THE SYSTEM?

1. Dial 1-877-301-4555.

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## Compliance project requires notification of Section 18 pesticide use

During 2000, applicators must notify the state Department of Agriculture 48 hours before they apply Section 18 pesticides within approximately one mile of the Chehalis, Cowlitz, Newaukum, Nooksack, Skagit, Touchet, Walla Walla and Yakima rivers or their tributaries.

The pre-application notification is part of a project that will allow staff from Department of Agriculture to validate the Section 18 registration process, and to collect statistically valid evidence to determine if Section 18 pesticide label directions are being followed in the field and if

they are adequately protecting endangered and threatened fish.

The project focuses on Section 18 pesticides classified as moderately toxic, highly toxic or very highly toxic to fish or aquatic invertebrates (see Table 2 on page 7). Staff have set a goal to conduct 150 pesticide-use inspections. Section 18 pesticides are those that the Environmental Protection Agency has granted specific exemption under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. The exemption

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## Read The Label First! The homeowner's guide to proper pesticide use.

As a professional who uses or sells pesticides, you know all too well the importance of obeying pesticide labels. Improper use can render them ineffective, harm the environment, waste your money and land you on the wrong side of the law.

With all the attention on water quality and salmon protection, applicators are under increasing pressure to reduce pesticide use and strictly comply with the label. But what about the "wild card" of pesticide use – the untrained urban and suburban homeowners who don't think they use pesticides.

These are folks who apply only "weed and feed" or "bug killer." They think if a little is good, then more is better. There is the "I don't need to measure, I can just eyeball it" approach to mixing pesticides. Or, the "I don't need to read directions" school of thought.

So what, if anything, is being done to correct these behaviors?

Actually, a lot. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in conjunction with a diverse group of partners, has formed the Consumers Labeling Initiative (CLI) to make home and garden pesticide labels easier to read and understand. A national campaign aimed directly at unlicensed pesticide users has been launched. The key message is **Read The Label First!**

CLI began in 1996 as a pilot program to foster pollution prevention and improve consumer understanding of household product labels. CLI participants have worked voluntarily for more than three years to help consumers:

- quickly locate information on product labels for safe, appropriate and environmentally sound use;
- use labels to compare products intended for similar uses;
- purchase, use, store, and dispose of products safely with minimal effect on the environment; and
- ensure they are using the right product for the problem.

CLI has encouraged participation from interested individuals and groups. Trade associations, government agencies, academicians, consumer and environmental groups, pesticide manufacturers, health and safety professionals and citizens provided valuable input by identifying label deficiencies and suggesting changes.

Direct consumer research is another important feature of CLI. The research involved a detailed, comprehensive national mail and telephone survey and qualitative, in-depth interviews that identified consumer preference for language, comprehension, attitudes, behavior, satisfaction with labeling, and options for standard product labels. This helped identify problem language

and alternative wording, making it easier to understand ingredients, precautionary statements and first aid instructions.

This broad-based consumer education campaign urges

consumers to **Read The Label First!** By focusing attention on labels, it helps consumers understand and use labels effectively. It also teaches the purpose of each part of the label. For example, they will learn that the signal words "Caution," "Warning," and "Danger" provide important information about the product's toxicity.

Similarly, while most people may guess that "active ingredients" are what makes a product kill bugs or weeds, many homeowners wonder about "inert" or "other ingredients." This campaign will let them know that inert ingredients aren't

just water, and they don't just sit there doing nothing. Those "other ingredients" may be one reason a product carries a particular signal word or precautionary statement.

For more information, see the CLI Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/labeling/>. Also, Washington State University's Pesticide Education Program has a Web site for home and garden pesticide users and people interested in home and garden pest management. The site offers the HORTSENSE plant problem database, IPM and pesticide safety fact sheets, and access to the Washington Master Gardener web sites. Check it out at: <http://pep.wsu.edu/homegarden/hg.html>. ☺



WSDA Pesticide Notes is published by the Washington State Department of Agriculture Pesticide Management Division to keep pesticide users and others informed about changes in pesticide laws, issues and decisions that affect them. Your feedback and ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Write to us at:

### WSDA Pesticide Notes

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Inquiries regarding availability of this publication in alternative forms should be directed to the WSDA at (360) 902-1973 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) (360) 902-1996.

To obtain extra copies, contact Heike Stough at (360) 902-1900 or by e-mail: [hstough@agr.wa.gov](mailto:hstough@agr.wa.gov)

## A new look for old WACs

The Department of Agriculture's General Pesticide Rules have a new look with further, more extensive revamping on the horizon. These changes are a result of Governor Locke's directive to keep rules current and relevant. Unlike laws, which are passed by the legislature, rules are put in place by state agencies following a prescribed public comment period. Read on to find out what types of changes have occurred and how you can be part of the process for future changes.

### PHASE ONE

Over many years, pesticide rules were created or changed to address current issues of the day. Problem was, rules that became obsolete due to cancelled products or outdated practices were never repealed. Also, when rules were added, they were not grouped according to subject. This made it difficult to locate related subjects.

The first phase of the rule review eliminated sections that were no longer applicable, grouped related subjects and simplified language. New numbers were assigned to eliminate confusion with the old rules. Rules that addressed fertigation and chemigation were moved to a separate section.

### PHASE TWO

Now that the housekeeping revisions are complete, more significant changes are needed to better enforce Washington's pesticide laws. The specific sections that have been opened for change are listed in the table to the right.

Staff at the Department of Agriculture is identifying proposed rule changes that require public input. The comment period for

WAC No. 16-228-	WAC SUBJECT
1010	Definitions
1040	Response Time
1150	Dispositions
1200	Restrictions on distribution, transportation
1220	Restrictions
1230	Restricted Use Products
1240	Signs
1250	Phenoxy
1270	Seed Crops
1300	Distribution Records
1320	Applicator Requirements
1380	Vertebrate Control
1385	Compound 1080
1400	Pesticide Labeling
1500	Licenses
1520	Insurance
1540	Exams
1545	Pesticide Exams
1580	Exemptions
2000	Wood Destroying Organisms
16-200-695	Definitions
16-202-1000	Chemigation
16-202-2000	Fertigation

*Sections of the general pesticides rules that have been opened for change.*

these changes will extend through early fall with a targeted completion date of mid-December. For information on the proposed changes, please call (360) 902-1900.

For a copy of the current *General Pesticide Rules* (WAC 16-228), including phase one changes, call (360) 902-1900 or visit our Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/pesticides/laws.htm>. ☺

## Employees wage war against Scotch Broom

Hate Scotch Broom? So do we!

Employees in the Olympia office of the Department of Agriculture are donating time, energy and a fair amount of skin to clean out the notorious noxious weed on a section of I-5 just north of Olympia. The section we have adopted has historical significance. The Medicine Creek Treaty Monument and an unrelated time capsule are located at the top of the hill. What looks like a small section of roadway becomes very large and incredibly steep when you're out there cutting Scotch Broom! We cut a portion of our allotted

section last fall. We hope to finish our grueling task this coming fall. If you happen to see us rolling down the hillside, give us a honk!

Once the Scotch Broom is conquered, we would like to plant the hillside with native species. Any suggestions for drought hardy, fire resistant native perennials? ☺



BEFORE



AFTER



PLEASE NOTE: like any touch-tone phone system you must use a certain amount of care when making your selection. If you press the keys too lightly or briefly, the system won't "read" your response; if you react too quickly or slowly, you will over-run the system and it won't get you where you want to go.

### Toll-Free Link *continued from page 1,*

2. Select one of three options in the first menu:

- Press 1 to continue in English,
- Press 2 to continue in Spanish (spoken in Spanish),
- Rotary phone users, stay on the line....

3. Select any of the seven options listed under "What services can I access?"

It's as simple as that! In most instances you are connected to a staff person who can provide the specific service you require. At times, you will have to leave us a message because staff is helping other customers. Please **DO** leave a message – your call is important to us and we are committed to returning it as quickly as possible. We can't help you if we don't know that you called!

### WHAT IS THE AUTOMATED TEST RESERVATION SYSTEM YOU MENTIONED IN THE BEGINNING? HOW DO I USE IT?

In the past, to make a test reservation a person called one of six regional offices. Sometimes we answered the call directly but often the caller was asked to leave a message. We recorded messages, returned calls, confirmed reservations, and clarified information left by the caller. Many times we had to try two or three times to reach the caller. Although this allowed us to have direct customer contact, it consumed a lot of time that could be dedicated to other services such as issuing license renewals.

Automated test reservations allow callers to

make and confirm a test reservation in one attempt. To make a reservation, follow the menu prompts that tell you about the next available exam session in your area. After you make your selection, you are asked to do the following:

- Say and spell your last name, then say and spell your first name.
- Use your touch tone telephone keypad to enter your phone number and area code (**do not enter the number "1" before the area code**).
- Say the type of license you wish to apply for (e.g. Commercial Applicator, Public Operator, Private Applicator, etc.).
- Say the exams you wish to take (e.g. Laws and Safety, Agricultural Weed Control, Ornamental Insect and Disease Control, Private Applicator, etc.).

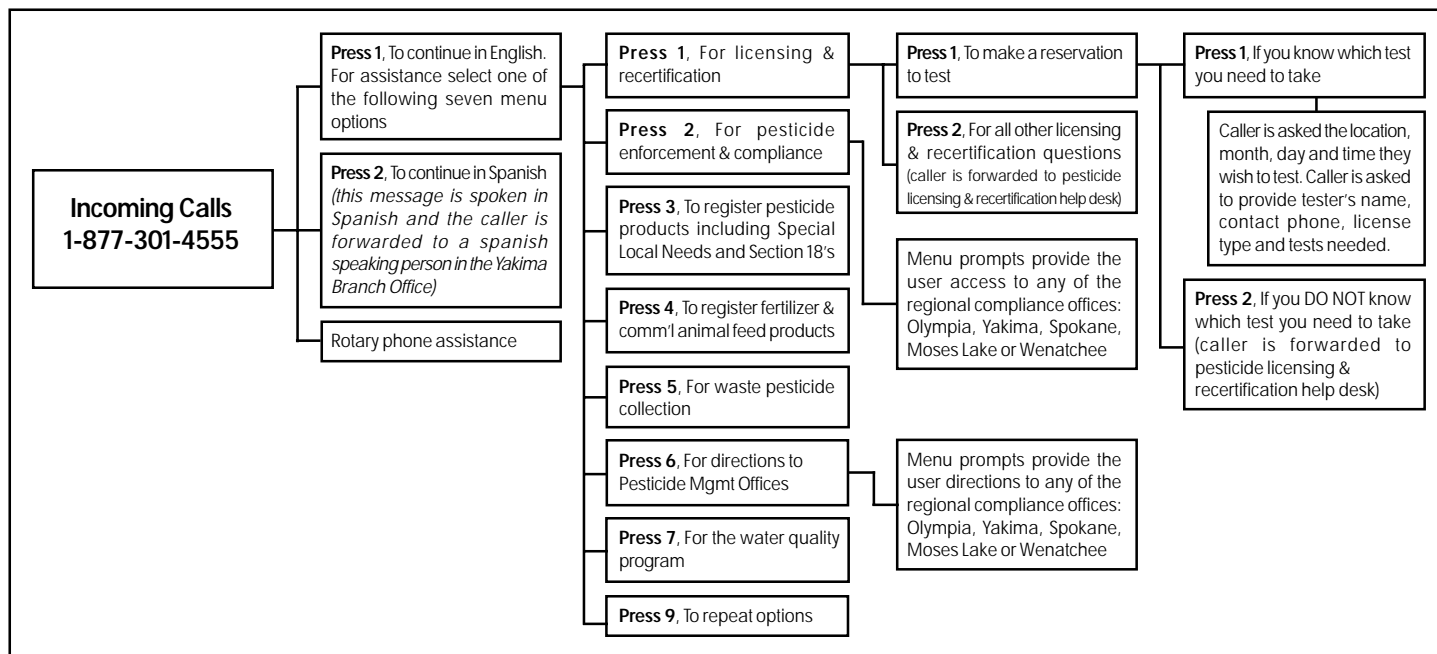
The system confirms your reservation, restating the location, month, day and time you selected.

You are then asked if you wish to:

- Make another test reservation.
- Get directions to the test location.
- Return to the main menu.
- Exit the system.

That's all there is to it! Of course you still can make reservations in Olympia, Mount Vernon, Yakima, Spokane, Wenatchee or Moses Lake.

The purpose of the toll free line is to provide the fastest, most accurate and efficient service possible. For more information, please refer to the flow chart below. ☺





## From "Idea to Reality:" Passage of the new structural pest inspection legislation

Many of you have complained about wood destroying organism (WDO) inspections. Problems with these inspections – especially poor inspections by unlicensed individuals – were the focus of a task force that met over the course of the last year.

The culmination of their efforts is a new law that should address your concerns. SHB 2378 puts more safeguards in place to ensure structural pest inspections are done only by licensed individuals who are financially responsible for the quality of their work. Legislative approval of this bill was the final step in a lengthy process that began more than a year ago.

The Structural Pest Inspection Advisory Group includes a mix of WDO inspectors, home inspectors, pest control operators, real estate agents, mortgage lenders, regulators from Department of Agriculture, and other concerned people. Volunteers met once or twice a month in sessions lasting no more than three hours.

Members were asked to keep their stakeholders informed of all decisions. Still, there were rumors and misinformation. For example, we recently heard that the Department of Agriculture would charge inspectors \$25 for each inspection. We also heard inspectors would have to send a copy of each WDO inspection report to us. Neither rumor is true... Imagine having more than 50,000 reports sent to us each year!

The group was professional, spirited, and occasionally outspoken. Despite differing viewpoints, it achieved what it set out to do. It designed a process to make the WDO inspector licensing law work better for inspectors, consumers and regulators.

Legislators were generally supportive of the legislation. Some asked about the dollar amounts of the newly required surety bond (minimum \$25,000) or insurance (minimum \$50,000). The amounts are similar to those required of commercial pesticide applicators but much higher than those required for contractors.

Several WDO inspectors and home inspectors gave legislators a "from-the-trenches" perspective on WDO inspections at public

hearings on the bill. The bill passed the House 98-0, the Senate 47-1, and was signed by Governor Locke March 24.

### WHAT THE LEGISLATION MEANS TO WDO INSPECTORS

**Be sure you're licensed** – Licensing, which has been required since 1991, assures consumers that you have knowledge about WDO inspections. Attendance at continuing education classes also helps you do a better job.

**Get insured** - State law now requires you to carry a surety bond or errors and omissions (E&O) insurance with minimum amounts of \$25,000 and \$50,000, respectively. An E&O policy must be on an occurrence basis with a minimum three-year occurrence clause. Why was this written into the law? To protect you and the consumer. Talk to your company representative about the best insurance for your situation.

**Advertising** – If you aren't licensed as a WDO inspector, don't advertise that you are. With this legislation, Department of Agriculture can take better enforcement action against those who misrepresent themselves.

**Inspection Control Numbers (ICNs)** – For many, this is the heart of the legislation. ICNs will be required on all WDO inspection reports. These numbers will be obtained, free of charge, from Department of Agriculture. Simply call toll-free 1 (877) 301-4555, input your WSDA license number and a personal identification number to receive a series of randomly generated ICNs.

All WDO inspection reports for a single property, or a single transaction, will have the same ICN. Realtors and mortgage officers will be directed to look for this number and, if it's

*Continued on page 8*

### STRUCTURAL PEST INSPECTION ADVISORY GROUP

#### American Society of Home Inspectors

##### Member

- Roy Angevine,  
*Skagit Home Inspections*

#### Independent Home Inspectors

##### Members

- Tom Knox,  
*HouseMaster Home Inspections*
- Donald Merry,  
*Merry Inspection Services*

##### Advisory

- Rene LaMarche,  
*Carrenden Enterprises*

#### Washington State Pest Control Association

##### Members

- Gene Chafe,  
*Senske Lawn & Tree Care*
- Corey Chantry,  
*All Seasons Pest Control*
- Brad Cyrier,  
*Bugman Termite and Pest Control*
- Steve Venables,  
*Washington Pest Services and Consultants*

##### Advisory

- Don Long
- Art Losey
- Terry Whitworth

#### Mortgage/Lenders Association

##### Member

- Scott Gaspard,  
*Washington Savings League*

##### Advisory

- Cleotis Borner,  
*Department of Licensing*

#### Realtors Association

##### Members

- Bryan Wahl,  
*Washington Association of Realtors*
- Brent Foster,  
*General Property Inspection Service*

##### Advisory

- Syd Beckett,  
*Department of Licensing*

#### Washington State Department of Agriculture

##### Members

- Dan Suomi
- Cliff Weed

##### Advisory

- Mary Beth Lang

### EPA Funds Pesticide Notes

The EPA's Region 10 office in Seattle has recognized the value of *Pesticide Notes* by once again providing funding for its development and distribution. We gratefully acknowledge this support. WSDA and EPA join in hoping that this publication provides you with valuable information.

## Quincy bilingual Hands-On Handler/Applicator Training Program

Last years' Hands-on Handler pesticide safety training in Wenatchee was such a success that the Columbia Basin Tree Fruit Society collaborated with the Farmworker Education Program to hold another session this year in Quincy.

Highly experienced bilingual fieldmen and managers conducted the training in cooperation with the Quincy High School Future Farmers of America program and Washington State University Cooperative Extension. About 50 trainees learned and practiced techniques for safe pesticide handling at the March 11 class. Three of the trainers were students in last years' training in Wenatchee.

### WHY "HANDS-ON?"

People often learn better by doing. In the hands-on training, small groups of 10 to 12 students rotate through four subjects: mixing and loading, clean up and disposal, personal protective equipment (PPE) and leaks and spills. Participants discuss techniques, do problem-solving activities, and enact real-life scenarios, such as how to properly wear and maintain their PPE. This type of training is excellent because people often feel more comfortable asking questions in a small-group environment.

The training was held in English and Spanish, and intended for agricultural employees who apply and otherwise handle pesticides. Of the 50 trainees who went through the Quincy workshop, approximately two-thirds were Spanish-speaking. Participants received a Worker Protection Standards handler card, or recertification credits (if licensed), and a certificate of attendance.

### WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY ABOUT IT?

"Have more trainings of this kind!" is what we heard



*A participant puts on safety equipment while trainer Pedro Serrano leads an activity on reading pesticide labels to find safety information.*



*A trainee learns how to contain and clean up a dry 'pesticide' spill while other participants watch.*

most often from the Spanish-speaking participants. English-speaking participants reported that the demonstrations enabled them to learn more about how to use equipment and handle pesticides. Several growers who sent their employees have called us just to say, "Thanks for putting on such a great program!"

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Anyone can put on a hands-on workshop. Department of Agriculture's Farm Worker Education Program (FEP) would be happy to help you. One of our volunteer trainers has already conducted training for his employees.

The curriculum is adapted from a University of California at Davis program and includes Washington standards. The FEP can provide a training booklet and even lend out equipment, if necessary. Most of the props needed are regular shop and household items.

The FEP is developing a supplement to the curriculum that will give agricultural organizations all the information they need to sponsor a hands-on program for their members' employees. This "how-to-do-training" guide will be available by late summer.

For more information, please contact Lisa Drittenbas at (509) 665-3395 or [ldrittenbas@agr.wa.gov](mailto:ldrittenbas@agr.wa.gov).

### THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S WORKER PROTECTION WEB SITE:

<http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers.htm>

**Compliance Project** *continued from page 1,*

allows a pesticide to be used for an unregistered application in an emergency. Emergencies include the outbreak of a new pest, development of resistance to existing pesticides, unusual weather conditions that cause a pest outbreak, or product cancellations.

Given Washington's diverse, relatively small-acreage crops, these pesticides are critical for maintaining a viable agricultural industry. Any action that could delay or block the approval or application of a Section 18 pesticide could prove economically devastating.

Use of Section 18 pesticides could be at risk to third-party challenge under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The pre-application notification must include the:

- Applicator's name and telephone number
- Anticipated application date, time and location, including township, range and section
- Product to be applied
- Crop and acres to be treated

The 48-hour pre-application notification requirement may be modified based on a written agreement with Department of Agriculture. Notification zone maps are available on the Internet at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/pesticides/sect18proj.htm> or by calling (360) 902-2040.

For more information, visit Department of Agriculture's Web site: <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/pesticides/compliance.htm#sect18comp>, call (360) 902-2040, FAX (360) 902-2093, or e-mail [compliance@agr.wa.gov](mailto:compliance@agr.wa.gov). ☞

## Violation of worker protection standards sends Hawaiian grower to prison

The owner of a ginger root farm in Hilo, Hawaii was sentenced in January to four months in prison, a \$5,000 fine, and ordered to pay \$6,113 in restitution because he failed to protect his employees from pesticides.

Kap Dong Kim pleaded guilty to illegally using the restricted use pesticide Nemacur on his ginger root crop in violation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Kim directed workers to apply the pesticide on the crop without following required standards for worker protection. One worker was poisoned and had to be hospitalized. Kim then deliberately failed to disclose the pesticide application when questioned by a government official. Civil charges against Kim are also pending.

This case was investigated by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Criminal Investigation Division, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture with the assistance of EPA's National Enforcement Investigations Center, and was prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice. ☞

This list reflects the pesticides included in the scope of the Section 18 Compliance Project as of June 1, 2000. The list does not preclude additional pesticides from receiving Section 18 exemptions or being added to the project scope. If you have questions about the status of a Section 18 pesticide not included in this list, please contact WSDA.

BRAND NAME:	CHEMICAL NAME:	TOXICITY TO FISH:	CROP:
Folicur 3.6F	Tebuconazole	MT/HT	barley
Flint	Trifloxystrobin	VHT	hops
Folicur 3.6F	Tebuconazole	MT/HT	hops
Rally 40W	Myclobutanil	MT	hops
Tough 5EC	Pyridate	MT	mint
Rally 40W	Myclobutanil	MT/HT	mint
Danitol 2.4 EC	Fenpropathrin	HT	currants
Orbit 3.6EC	Propiconazole	MT	blueberries
Brigade WSB	Bifenthrin	VHT	red raspberries
Orbit 3.6EC	Propiconazole	MT	red raspberries
Switch 62.5 WG	Fludioxinol + cyprodinil	MT/HT	caneberries
Pirimor 50-DF	Pirimicarb	MT	vegetable seed crops
Aphistar 50 WSP	Triazamate	HT	Christmas trees
Frontier 6.0	Dimethenamid	MT	sugarbeets
MT = Moderately toxic, HT = Highly toxic, VHT = Very highly toxic			

*Section 18 pesticides classified as moderately toxic, highly toxic or very highly toxic to fish or aquatic invertebrates.*

## License exams still available in Mount Vernon despite office closure

Even though the Mount Vernon compliance office has relocated to Olympia, Department of Agriculture will continue to offer license exams there. Please call toll-free 1 (877) 301-4555 to determine test dates, make reservations, or conduct other business with the Pesticide Management Division.

If you would like to comment on this change, please contact Cliff Weed, Compliance Program Manager, at 360.902.2036 or [cweed@agr.wa.gov](mailto:cweed@agr.wa.gov). ☞



## Structural Pest Inspection

*Continued from page 5,*

not there, the WDO inspection report is invalid. Anyone who sees these forms will be able to check Department of Agriculture's Web site to see if you are properly licensed.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

The law takes effect July 1, 2000. If you are licensed to perform WDO inspections, you should have received detailed information in the mail explaining how the law changes affect you. Once the ICN system is up and running, we will begin the process of reviewing and clarifying the WDO inspection rules. If you would like to share your thoughts and expertise on this issue, please call Dan Suomi at (360) 902-2044 or e-mail [dsuomi@agr.wa.gov](mailto:dsuomi@agr.wa.gov). ☺

## What do you think of this newsletter?

The Pesticide Management Division would like your comments on the value of this newsletter. In the weeks following its mailing, we will call some of you for your comments. We promise to take only a few minutes of your time. If you would like to submit written comments, please send them to:

Margaret Tucker  
PMD Newsletter Comments  
PO Box 42589  
Olympia, WA 98504-2589

You may also send your comments via e-mail to: [mtucker@agr.wa.gov](mailto:mtucker@agr.wa.gov).

**Thank you for your assistance!**

## It's no mystery.

## Private Applicator licenses must be renewed every year

It's been more than 10 years since private applicators were notified that they must renew their licenses every year. Still, there are growers who think their license is good for five years, or that their license won't expire at all.

This misunderstanding can cause growers and dealers trouble with federal and state compliance officers.

Uncertainty over renewal of the private applicator license stems from two sources. Prior to 1990, the license *was* open-ended. Once issued, it remained valid unless you received notification from Department of Agriculture. A law change in 1989 requires private applicators to renew their licenses every year that they use restricted use pesticides.

Second, the same 1989 law change requires private applicators to be recertified every five years. Some private applicators believe their license is valid for the length of the recertification period. That is not, nor has it ever been, true.

So how do you know if you are using a restricted use pesticide?

If a pesticide is federally restricted, it will say so in a rectangular box on the label's front panel. Pesticides restricted by the state are harder to identify because the information does not

appear on their labels. Instead, state restricted products are listed by active ingredient in Washington's General Pesticide Rules.

There are 19 active ingredients listed because of their potential to contaminate groundwater. Among those are all formulations of strychnine and all pesticides applied to water. In addition, all formulations of 2,4-D in greater than one gallon containers are restricted use in Eastern Washington.

### BOTTOM LINE

The bottom line is the private applicator license is an annual license. It always expires Dec. 31 of the year it is obtained. All private applicators must complete recertification every five years. Once your five years is over, and you successfully recertify, you start a new five-year cycle. Every license that you acquire during this five-year cycle is only valid for one calendar year.

Confused? Call pesticide licensing staff at 1(877) 301-4555 or e-mail [license@agr.wa.gov](mailto:license@agr.wa.gov). To determine if a pesticide is restricted use, call compliance staff at the same number. To view or download the General Pesticide Rules, go to <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/docs/rcw/16-228.doc>. ☺



Confused? The bottom line is the private applicator license is an annual license. It always expires Dec. 31 of the year it is obtained. All private applicators must complete recertification every five years.



## Cereal leaf beetle – It can fly, but it can't hide

Clinton L. Campbell, WSDA Managing Entomologist

We knew cereal leaf beetle was coming. Scientists had been looking for its presence in Washington for years. The insect showed up last June. It was discovered by Michael Klaus, a state Department of Agriculture entomologist, adjacent to the Idaho border in Spokane County.

So far, despite same-season limited surveys in neighboring and other counties, it has only been found in two locations – the find along the border and one other much further west.

Cereal leaf beetle (CLB) is a small, bluish and red beetle native to Europe that was found in Michigan in 1962. It can be a serious pest of wheat, oats and barley. It is a good flyer that spread and infested a large portion of the Midwest and eventually crossed the Rockies to inhabit portions of Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho. Wyoming says CLB demonstrated “relentless spread” there. Oregon found CLB on both sides of the Cascades last year.

CLB larvae and adults feed on the leaves of cereal grains and grasses. Spring planted grains are favored and damage can be substantial. The larvae look somewhat slug-like and consume leaf tissue, but usually don't create holes. Adults also feed on the leaves. While CLB in the Midwest has only one generation per year, evidence suggests a second generation can occur here.

### BIOLOGICAL CONTROL VS. INSECTICIDES

Fortunately, biological control of CLB by parasitic wasps has proven effective in the Midwest. In fact, biological control of CLB is considered the most successful example of biocontrol of an insect pest in the temperate region.

Department of Agriculture, in partnership with Washington State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and industry stakeholders, plan biological control efforts this spring. Parasitic wasps will be used. The partnership is pursuing establishment of a field insectary in Spokane County. It will serve as a place to get the wasps established and eventually be a source of additional wasps for distribution to CLB sites as they are located.

At present, CLB is not thought to be widespread. Department of Agriculture staff will begin extensive surveys for it this spring to determine both distribution and locations for future biological control agent releases.

It is not believed that CLB is abundant enough anywhere for insecticides to be needed. Spraying for CLB could disrupt the biological control that is in place for Russian wheat aphid. The good news is that CLB biological control is being implemented very early in Washington and successful control is likely. ☺



If you believe you've seen a cereal leaf beetle, please

call Clinton Campbell at

(360) 664-0905 or e-mail

[ccampbell@agr.wa.gov](mailto:ccampbell@agr.wa.gov)

## Washington State University makes recertification credits available on-line

Need just a recertification credit or two?

Want to stay closer to home for credits?

Washington State University (WSU) has launched a Pesticide Education Program for pesticide licensees who want to take recertification courses over the Internet. The courses provide “last minute” credit hours, and serve clients with few opportunities for other courses.

The delivery system requires licensees to go to an “approved sponsor location” to take the courses.

Each course takes about 50 minutes to complete and is worth one pesticide license recertification credit. The time it takes to move

through a course depends upon a licensee's knowledge of the subject matter, reading speed and computer navigation abilities. These courses are available throughout each year; however, a course may only be taken once in a calendar year.

A wide variety of approved sponsor locations ensures that courses are available across the state. Most sponsor locations require an appointment. Participants must provide their pesticide license number at the time they take the course.

For a list of participating sponsors, go to WSU's Web site <http://pep.wsu.edu/education/recert.html>. To become a sponsor, contact Carol Ramsay at [ramsay@wsu.edu](mailto:ramsay@wsu.edu) or (509) 335-9222. ☺



For a list of participating sponsors, go to WSU's Web

site [http://pep.wsu.edu/](http://pep.wsu.edu/education/recert.html)

[education/recert.html](http://pep.wsu.edu/education/recert.html).

## 1999 pesticide enforcement actions

The following individuals violated at least one section of the Washington State Department of Agriculture's pesticide laws under chapter 17.21 RCW (Washington Pesticide Application Act), chapter 15.58 RCW (Washington Pesticide Control Act), and chapter 16-228 WAC (General Pesticide Rules).

1. **JOE H. PARKER**, licensed commercial pesticide applicator for Affordable Pest Control, Tacoma, Washington. Mr. Parker was denied renewal of his commercial pesticide applicator license due to his failure to pay a \$3,000 civil penalty for previous violations alleged by the department. Mr. Parker paid the \$3,000 civil penalty and the department agreed to renew Mr. Parker's license.
2. **GREGORY M. HOADLEY**, licensed commercial pesticide operator for Interstate Pest Control, Lewiston, Idaho. Mr. Hoadley paid a civil penalty of \$250 and had his commercial pesticide operator license suspended for seven (7) days for his failure to keep and maintain adequate and complete WDO inspection reports.
3. **ERIC SCHMIDT**, licensed commercial pesticide operator for Royal Flying Service, Inc., Royal City, Washington. The department alleged that Mr. Schmidt was negligent during an aerial pesticide application. By failing to shut off his spray boom, Mr. Schmidt was alleged to have drifted a mix of highly toxic pesticide spray onto farmworkers. Mr. Schmidt's application was also contrary to the label directions of the five pesticides he used. Mr. Schmidt entered into an agreement with the department without admitting liability or acknowledging the violations alleged by the department. He paid a civil penalty of \$5,000 and had his commercial pesticide operator license suspended for 60 days.
4. **CARL A. DOUGLAS and TIMOTHY MITCHELL**, licensed commercial pesticide operators for Redi-National Pest Eliminators, Seattle, Washington. Mr. Douglas and Mr. Mitchell each paid a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,050 and had their commercial pesticide operator licenses suspended for 19 days. The penalties were for three violations of the label and for operating in a negligent manner, one violation for keeping false records and one violation for failure to keep and maintain adequate and complete records. Mr. Douglas and Mr. Mitchell waived their rights to a hearing and entered into a Stipulation, Agreement and Order with the department. As part of the agreement, Mr. Douglas and Mr. Mitchell denied liability and the violations alleged by the department.
5. **GUY D. WARREN**, licensed commercial pesticide applicator for Royal City Flying Service, Inc., Royal City, Washington. Mr. Warren paid a civil penalty of \$550 for applying a herbicide inconsistent with the label directions, for causing injury to ornamental plants and commercial grape plants, for applying the herbicide within one mile of a commercial vineyard, and for flying over the towns of Beverly and Schawana, Washington, contrary to state regulations. Mr. Warren entered into an agreement with the department neither admitting nor denying the violations alleged by the department.
6. **JAMES J. WOLHAUPTER**, licensed commercial pesticide operator for Falcon West Helicopters, Inc., Malaga, Washington. Mr. Wolhaupter paid a \$700 civil penalty and had his commercial pesticide operator license suspended for seven (7) days for his failure to follow a herbicide label's procedures for neutralizing and rinsing his spray equipment, for using a rate greater than that allowed by an insecticide label, and for failure to maintain and keep adequate and complete pesticide application records. Mr. Wolhaupter waived his right to a hearing and admitted the above violations.
7. **CHARLES D. JENNINGS**, licensed commercial pesticide applicator for Turfpro, Prosser, Washington. Mr. Jennings agreed to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty and have his commercial pesticide applicator license suspended for 20 days for the following violations: allowing an employee to apply insecticides to a customer's property without the appropriate license category of Ornamental Insect and Disease Control; for operating a commercial pesticide application business without having certified in the Ornamental Insect and Disease Control category; and, for his failure to maintain and keep adequate and complete pesticide application records.
8. **CLIFFORD T. LEWIS**, licensed commercial pesticide operator for Terry Kilmer Crop Dusting, Warden, Washington. Mr. Lewis waived his right to a hearing and paid a civil penalty of \$250 and had his commercial pesticide operator license suspended for three (3) days. He entered into a settlement agreement with the department denying the allegation that his aerial application drifted a herbicide spray and caused injury to an alfalfa crop. ☹

## Chemigation education leads to better compliance

Now two years old, the Chemigation and Fertigation Technical Assistance Program continues to help individuals who apply chemicals through irrigation systems comply with state regulations. What's new as of March is an inspection technical assistance program operated by Pesticide Management Division's Compliance Program.

The technical assistance program focuses on the proper installation, operation and maintenance of federal and state mandated backflow-prevention devices. The philosophy of the program is to increase compliance through education and assistance. Individual consultations, on-site visits, distribution of reference materials, and providing training programs and demonstrations are at the core of the program.

Much of the program's success can be attributed to support by the agricultural community. Several crop advisors and producers did a pilot test of the program last growing season. Their comments provide the framework for inspection procedures and checklists along with system performance criteria.

As a result of their dedication, the inspection technical assistance program is sensitive to the uniqueness of the chemigation and fertigation process, and responsive to water quality concerns of environmental and agricultural communities.

Although inspection-driven, the program has a policy of progressive voluntary compliance. An inspection checklist will be used to verify chemical injection and irrigation system compliance with state law. Deficiencies are noted, corrective measures recorded, and a date agreed upon for reinspection.

Corrective action will be initiated immediately for systems threatening human health or the environment.

Irrigation systems used to apply chemicals have the potential to contaminate the water supply if safety measures are not in place. The three most common problems encountered by technical assistance program staff are:

- ◆ Freshwater takeouts, usually in conjunction with screen cleaners, are located downstream from the irrigation mainline check valve and, in some cases, from the chemical injection point. Takeouts should be located upstream of the irrigation mainline check valve.
- ◆ On systems that have the potential for backflow events, an irrigation mainline check valve must be present to

*Byron Fitch, Chemigation Compliance Specialist, is performing a voluntary compliance inspection on a fertigation system. At their request, Technical Assistance staff advise producers who chemigate or fertigate about backflow prevention practices that are intended to protect the irrigation water supply from contamination.*

protect the water supply. The mainline check valve must be automatic, quick acting, and capable of forming and maintaining a watertight seal.

- ◆ Safety devices must be installed and appropriately maintained. Malfunctioning chemigation line injection check valves resulting from residue or rust buildup or from sand or organic particle obstruction can render an entire irrigation system unsuitable for the application of chemicals. Chemigation line injection check valves should be examined for integrity and performance before each operation.

State rules governing chemigation and fertigation are being revised by an advisory committee composed of environmental, agricultural, and regulatory agency interests. The committee's goal is to draft rules with performance-based rather than equipment specific requirements. The committee will also review the state law and offer suggestions for revision, if necessary.

During this inspection season, staff will underscore education and technical inspections to help system operators achieve voluntary compliance. However, beginning in 2001, the educational component may be de-emphasized, with an increased emphasis on compliance.

For more information, please call Tom Hoffmann or Byron Fitch in Moses Lake at (509) 766-2574. ☞

## Hispanic farmworker theater project

Kathy Pitts, MSW, Project Coordinator  
Dr. Pamela Dee Elkind, Project Director  
Eastern Washington University  
Center for Farm Health and Safety

Hispanic workers bring a rich and diverse cultural tradition of family values and a strong work ethic to Eastern Washington. Unfortunately,



those that are farm laborers find themselves in low wage, hazardous conditions. Until changes occur in the structural conditions that surround their lives, the workers and their families must be educated about avoiding haz-

ards of their occupational surroundings.

Educating workers and their families about farm health and safety hazards is the focus of a two-year theater project funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Theater was chosen as an educational tool because it does not require a high level of literacy or English speaking skills. The project targets agricultural workers in Walla Walla, Benton, Franklin and Yakima counties.

In the fall of 1998 work began with the Special Populations Department at Walla Walla Community College, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic and the Yakima Office of the Department of Labor and Industries. With the assistance of local farm worker networks, a series of focus groups was held to identify the most urgent farm health and safety needs of agricultural workers in this region. Focus groups were made up of farm workers, growers, healthcare providers and other farm worker advocates.

The information gathered at these focus groups and key informant interviews led to the development of four Spanish one-act plays. The topics of the four plays are: *El Regreso De Miguel* a story about preventing Hepatitis A, TB awareness and alcohol education; *Sueños y Desafíos* a story about pesticide safety; *La Fuji Mágica* a story

about pregnancy and prenatal concerns; and *Dora Evelia* a story about ergonomics (bending, lifting and ladder safety). The play scripts were written by two Seattle Playwrights, Leticia Lopez and Lupita Patterson.

Project staff consulted with health and safety experts to ensure the accuracy of the health education and hazard prevention messages presented in each play. Director Felix B. Sola and a company of dedicated actors from the Yakima area brought the play scripts to life on the stage. Additional changes were made based on comments from safety and health experts who attended performances. When possible, the plays were performed in a fiesta-like setting at church festivals, schools, Headstart centers, community centers and labor camps.

In addition to the health and safety messages each play is quite entertaining. To date there have been 14 performances across the three county region. More than 300 individuals have seen one of the plays, 200 of these are agricultural workers.

To measure the effectiveness of theater as a teaching tool, audience members completed a pre- and post-test questionnaire. Questionnaires were designed in a simple *yes/no/don't know* format both in Spanish and English. Questions were also read aloud to be sensitive to individuals who may have limited reading skills.

Follow-up interviews indicated that audience members could relate to the characters and situations depicted in the plays. Virtually every person interviewed for the qualitative evaluation supported the project and encouraged that the project be continued in some form. There was unanimous agreement that theater is an effective and desirable method of educating and involving the farm worker community around health and safety issues.

A major goal of the project is to provide the play scripts to community groups that are interested in producing the plays. Future projects include a NIOSH dissemination proposal that would adapt the four one-act plays to radio-novella, foto-novella and to produce a professional videotape of each play. ☺

For more information,

call Kathy Pitts

(509) 359-6813 or

visit the center's

web site at

[www.farm.ewu.edu](http://www.farm.ewu.edu).



## Changes proposed for secondary containment rules

Five proposed changes in the secondary containment rules will be filed in September. The changes were recommended by a committee of industry representatives, established by the Department of Agriculture, to make the rules more consistent with current technology and to respond to Governor Locke's mandate to review all state rules. Changes are:

1. Add general permeability language for concrete and other materials to allow consistency in evaluating construction material permeability.
2. Allow phoned or faxed permits for weather-related time extensions on temporary field storage.
3. Convene the permit advisory committee only when the committee, permittee or the department requests a committee review. At present, all permit requests, no matter how simple, require committee review.
4. Remove the prohibition on storage of other commodities within the fertilizer secondary containment area.
5. Add definitions for certified engineer, temporary field storage, and requirements for permits.

Public comments on the proposed changes will be heard in November. Final adoption of the revised rules is expected by the end of the year.

Members of the committee represented state Department of Ecology; the agrochemical industry, including fertilizer and pesticide dealers; and agricultural and ornamental applicators. They met four times between December 1999 and March 2000.

The committee spent considerable time reviewing the requirements for tanks that hold more than 100,000 gallons. It determined that the rules adequately cover these types of facilities in most circumstances. In the unique situations when they do not, the permit process should be used.

For information on the proposed changes, please call (360) 902-1900. Once developed, the draft rule and hearing schedule will be available on the Pesticide Management Division Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/>. ☞

### Secondary Containment Success Story

The manager of a fertilizer retail outlet in Eastern Washington recently related the following story:

*A liquid fertilizer tank had a pinhole leak in a valve threading that went undetected over the weekend. By Monday morning, a significant amount of fertilizer had leaked into the secondary containment system. By the time enough water was added to effectively flush the spill into the waste tank, there was more than 5,000 gallons of dilute product.*

Many environmental, regulatory and public relations problems were avoided because of a functioning secondary containment system.

For information on the proposed changes, please call (360) 902-1900. Once developed, the draft rule and hearing schedule will be available on the Pesticide Management Division Web site at [www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/](http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/).

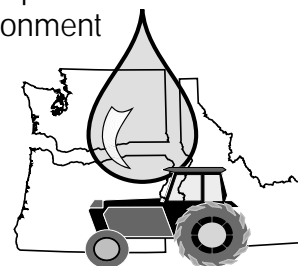
## Mark your calendar:

The third **Agriculture and Water Quality in the Pacific Northwest Conference** will be held October 24 & 25, 2000 at the Valley River Inn in Eugene, Oregon. This conference is designed to improve communication, build understanding and foster cooperation between people in agriculture, the environment and government. For more information contact:

Cindy Moore (360) 902-2047  
[cmoore@agr.wa.gov](mailto:cmoore@agr.wa.gov)

or Joe Hoffman (360) 902-2048  
[jhoffman@agr.wa.gov](mailto:jhoffman@agr.wa.gov)

Conference designed and sponsored by agricultural, environmental and government organizations in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.



## An update on the legacy of lead arsenate

Last year, it was reported in *Pesticide Notes* that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as part of its routine sampling program known as the "Market Basket Survey," found elevated levels of lead in a retail sample of frozen mixed vegetables. Further analysis revealed that it was carrots in the mix that contained the lead. The carrots were grown on a Washington farm on old orchard land where, years before, the pesticide lead arsenate had been used.

A state and federal work group was formed to address ongoing concerns that some agricultural land being converted to other uses may contain residual persistent pesticides. In addition, the state departments of Ecology, Health and Agriculture are defining the scope of the problem and developing alternatives that local planning departments, lending institutions and developers might use to deal with the issue of agricultural land conversion and potential contamination.

Following are actions that have been taken or are still under review in addressing this issue:

- **Department of Agriculture** – The department's Food Safety and Animal Health Division in February 1999 collected 33 samples of carrots and mixed vegetables from frozen and fresh food processing plants at various locations in Washington. Samples were analyzed for lead contents by a **Food and Drug Administration** laboratory. Analyses showed that the lead contents of the samples were below the reporting limits (detection limit) of 50 mg/kg.
- **Washington State University (WSU)** – Cooperative Extension published and distributed *Gardening on Lead- and Arsenic-Contaminated Soils*. The manuscript is available from the WSU Bulletin office by phone 1-800-723-1763, or Web site <http://www.cahe.wsu.edu/infopub/eb1884/eb1884.pdf>.

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture** – The Agricultural Research Service is preparing to study lead and arsenic uptake in carrots on historic orchard soils at its Environmental Chemistry Lab in Beltsville, Maryland. The study will include different soils and different cultivars of carrots. Actual historic orchard soil samples from various parts of the country known to be high in lead and arsenic will be used to see if the processing carrot cultivar has a different response to soil lead than garden cultivars. In earlier studies, the garden cultivars showed little evidence of lead uptake. Possible methods to inactivate soil lead using phosphate and iron to reduce lead and arsenic phytoavailability will also be tested.
- **The Northwest Food Processors Association** – Prior to the 1999-growing season, the association advised members to develop field histories and sample soils for lead and arsenic prior to planting. Queried following the production season, the association indicated that no problems were encountered.
- **Department of Ecology** – In May 1999, the Department of Ecology sampled soils from converted agricultural properties in Benton, Chelan, Douglas, King, Okanogan, Spokane, Thurston and Yakima counties. The limited number of samples were taken at variable soil depths and analyzed for lead and arsenic. Most results were below Ecology's risk-based cleanup standards. However, 7 percent of soil samples exceeded the residential cleanup level for lead (250 mg/kg), and 21 percent exceeded the residential cleanup level for arsenic (20 mg/kg). The Department of Ecology is currently evaluating what remedial actions should be taken in these cases. ☹

## A Not So Subtle Reminder for Structural Fumigators



In case you have forgotten, the Washington State Department of Agriculture continues to have a record call-in on certain types of fumigations.

All residential and commercial structural fumigations – including tent fumigations for objects within an occupied building – must be reported to us no later than 48 hours after the fumigation ends. If wood-destroying organisms (WDOs) are the target of any fumigation, then a limited WDO Inspection Report

must be submitted along with your records.

See WAC 16-228-2000 through 16-228-2040 of the General Pesticide Rules for details on completing WDO reports. For a copy of the rules call toll free (877) 301-4555 or download them from our Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/docs/rcw/16-228.doc>.

We will conduct random record checks during the year so, consider yourself reminded!



## Pesticide Management Web site takes shape

In November 1999, the Pesticide Management Division launched its revised Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd>. We hope the additional content and graphics will make this a useful site for those seeking information from us.

The Web site offers information on:

- Individual programs and their activities
- Pesticide licensing and recertification
- Pesticide, fertilizer and feed product registration
- Waste pesticide collection events with links to the schedule and container disposal program
- News releases for our pesticide, fertilizer and feed programs

Some new and notable elements of the Web site include:

- The commercial fertilizer database
- Section 18 compliance project information, including downloadable maps
- Lists of active Section 18 emergency exemptions and Section 24(c) Special Local Need registrations
- Pesticide Management Division laws, rules, publications, information sheets and forms
- Links to other pesticide-related Web sites

Some features we are working on are:

- Posting of licensed wood destroying organism inspectors
- A list of individuals who have received violations
- The pesticide-sensitive individuals list



Homepage of the WSDA Pesticide Management Web site.

Other elements we hope to include in the future:

- Online forms
- Electronic commerce (payment of various fees on-line)
- License records

Both the agency and the division Web sites are constantly changing, so check back often for updates. The agency home page is at <http://www.wa.gov/agr>. The division Web site is at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd>. If you have questions or comments, please e-mail us at [pmdweb@agr.wa.gov](mailto:pmdweb@agr.wa.gov) or call (360) 902-2040.

### SOME OF OUR FAVORITE WEBSITES...

WSDA Pesticide Management staff members submitted a few of their favorite Web sites. Some of the sites are related to pesticides, agriculture and research, while others are more general search and reference sites.

<http://pep.wsu.edu> - Pesticide and Environmental Stewardship Web site developed by Washington State University. In addition to general information about pesticides, it is a resource for education, pesticide databases, waste management, home and garden issues, and contacts throughout Washington.

<http://www.access.wa.gov> - The Official Washington State Web site. Links to all state agencies are provided.

[http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/current\\_pilot\\_projects.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/pnash/current_pilot_projects.htm)  
<http://www.epm.ucdavis.edu/>

These two sites include research papers for public and occupational health issues that include agriculture and pesticides.

<http://www.wa.gov/ecology/eils> - This site provides research abstracts including pesticide monitoring projects.

<http://www.snap.com> - allows you to search by Web site or image, and lists audio or video sites related to your search.

<http://www.ixquick.com> - a comprehensive meta search engine (a search tool which look across multiple databases), it searches 14 engines. Pages found in multiple engines are only listed once and ranked by relevancy.

<http://www.uswestdex.com> - allows you to search white or yellow pages across the country.

<http://mapquest.com> - provides maps and/or driving directions for your destination of choice.

<http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/AgriGator/ag/htm> - The University of Florida's Agrigator site is an incredibly inclusive site for agricultural and biological related Internet sites and resources. Enjoy your journey through "the swamp."

<http://www.usda.gov/oc/photo/opchomea.htm> - The USDA Online Photo Center provides a complimentary source of high-quality digital photographs.

## Update on the Fertilizer Regulation Act of 1998

One of the most significant components of the Fertilizer Regulation Act of 1998 was the creation of a standard for metals concentrations in fertilizers. Other states, initially resistant to the approach taken by Washington, are now considering adopting similar legislation.

With the enactment of the Fertilizer Regulation Act of 1998, Washington became the first state in the nation to monitor, evaluate and inform consumers about levels of heavy metals in fertilizer products.

One of the most significant components of the Act was the creation of a standard for metals concentrations in fertilizers. Other states, initially resistant to the approach taken by Washington, are now considering adopting similar legislation. The American Association of Plant Food Control Officials is in the initial stage of creating a national standard for heavy metals that can be adopted by interested states.

It is important to note that the vast majority of fertilizers passed the new metals standard in the initial registration process. Registrants were able to bring most of the remaining 5 percent of products into compliance by:

- Reformulating the product with a cleaner source.
- Revising the label directions so that less product is applied.

Those products that registrants were not able to bring into compliance had their registrations cancelled and were removed from distribution in Washington.

Waste-derived and micronutrient fertilizers have received particularly rigorous scrutiny from Washington state agencies. Concurrent review by the departments of Ecology and Agriculture ensures compliance with the law. The departments of Labor and Industries and Health also review these fertilizers for their safety to humans.

Washington State University (WSU) is in the second year of a heavy metals plant uptake study mandated by the law. University researchers are measuring the heavy metals content of several types of plants that have been grown in soils with various concentrations of heavy metals. WSU is expected to release a final report by June 30, 2001.

The ability of consumers to make informed choices about fertilizers is another key component of the law. Consumers can access the fertilizer database at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/pmd/fertilizers> to find out about the heavy metals content of products they are buying.

This Web site also provides detailed information about the fertilizer law, the registration process and a recent micronutrient use study conducted for Department of Agriculture by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

For more information, please call (360) 902-2025 or email [fertreg@agr.wa.gov](mailto:fertreg@agr.wa.gov).



On May 25, 2000 the Waste Pesticide Program collected its one millionth pound of unusable pesticide from Keith Stennes, seen above after receiving a Pesticide Stewardship award from WSDA Director Jim Jesernig.

## Waste pesticide collection schedule for late summer and fall 2000

EVENT LOCATION	EVENT DATE	SIGN UP DEADLINE
S. Snohomish Co.	August 22	July 12
Bellevue	August 23	July 12
Puyallup	August 24	July 12
Seattle	September 18	August 11
Bremerton	September 19	August 11
Centralia	September 20	August 14
Vancouver	September 21	August 14
Moses Lake	October 17	September 6
Orondo	October 19	September 6

If you are interested in participating in one of these events, contact the Waste Pesticide Program **by the sign up deadline** at:

E-mail: [wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov](mailto:wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov)  
 Telephone: 360-902-2056  
 Mail: WSDA Waste Pesticide Program  
 PO Box 42589, Olympia WA 98504-2589



## Recycle plastic pesticide containers

Clarke Brown, NW Ag Plastics, Inc.

Now you can be part of a growing movement to keep plastic pesticide containers out of landfills or, even worse, illegal burn piles.

It's simple. Just take clean, empty containers to one of the recycling sites being set up this year by NW Ag Plastics, Inc. in coordination with the Washington D.C.-based Agricultural Container Research Council (ACRC) and the Washington Pest Consultant's Association.

The program is a raving success, enjoying a 30 percent increase in the volume of plastics recycled every year since 1992. Last year, an all-time high of 300,000 containers – equal to 235,000 pounds of plastic – were granulated and 2,000 plastic drums were collected and processed.

This group, however, has no intention of settling back and riding on its past success. NW Ag Plastics, Inc., the private contractor for the project, has established an aggressive schedule of more than 100 collection sites throughout Washington this year. And a larger granulator has been added for faster processing and the granulation of larger containers.

NW Ag Plastics, Inc. will set up new collection sites for the convenience of pesticide users who are unable to attend a scheduled chipping day. These sites will be monitored by a trained inspector with containers processed during the season by a granulator operator.

The far-reaching benefits of reusing recycled plastics are just beginning to be discovered and understood. Research, under the guidance of ACRC, continues to develop new uses for granulated plastic, such as pallets, commercial truck/manure spreaders, deck boards, field drain tile, speed bumps, parking stops and fence posts.

Thanks to subsidization by major chemical companies, there is no fee to participate in this recycling program. You must, however, properly prepare your containers for disposal in order for them to be accepted on collection day.

- Containers must be multiple rinsed so that no residues remain.
- Containers must be clean and dry inside and out, with no odor.



- Hard plastic lids and slip on labels must be removed.
  - Glue-on labels may remain.
  - Most of the foil seal must be removed from the spout.
  - Half pint; pint; quart; one, two and one-half gallon; and five gallon containers are accepted whole.
  - Special arrangement must be made for 30 and 50-gallon containers. Call (509) 952-7146.
- Containers that do not meet these specifications cannot be accepted.

Participants report that proper preparation of their containers easily becomes part of their routine. Many speak of a sense of satisfaction in taking positive action toward a cleaner environment. ☺

To learn more about the collection schedule and other services offered through the container disposal program, call Clarke Brown, NW Ag Plastics, Inc. at (509) 952-7146. Or, check out the Washington State University Web site <http://pep.wsu.edu/waste/wd.html>.

David Brown (left),

Northwest Ag Plastics and

Bob Hurst (center), Yakima

County Solid Waste,

inspect and unload

containers delivered by

Miguel Gomez of

Washington Fruit at a

Terrace Heights plastic

pesticide container

recycling event.

## Keeping Washington free of gypsy moths

By Clinton L. Campbell, *WSDA Managing Entomologist*

Gypsy moths are travelers you definitely don't want to visit your state. And, an integrated pest management strategy used by the Laboratory Services Division Gypsy Moth Program continues to keep Washington free of the gypsy moth, one of the most invasive insect species to enter the United States.

There are two varieties of gypsy moth – the European gypsy moth and the more destructive Asian gypsy moth. Unlike the European variety, the Asian gypsy moth's host list includes conifers and its infestations can spread rapidly over a large area due to the female's ability to fly up to 20 miles.

European gypsy moth larvae can feed on more than 500 species of trees and shrubs. Agricultural interests have been battling European gypsy moths for more than a century as the pests have defoliated forests in eastern North America. The moth is permanently established in 17 Eastern states. Detection and eradication programs carried out together by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and pest control experts in Western states have prevented the European gypsy moth from becoming established in the West.

### ASIAN GYPSY MOTH

Washington is one of only three states to have ever detected Asian gypsy moths – the first detection occurring in 1991. State and federal pest control efforts have allowed inspectors to detect and eradicate Asian gypsy moths, which have not become established anywhere in North America.

In 1999, two introductions of Asian gypsy moths were detected in the Ballard area of Seattle. The state Department of Agriculture, through consultation with many state and federal agencies and with public input, has followed actions to prevent establishment of this serious pest.

Prevention of gypsy moths from being established in Washington provides a good example of integrated pest management. It is based on early detection through monitoring and the effective, integrated use of different control methods. A key control method is the use of the very selective, non-persistent, biological insecticide *Btk* (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*).

State Department of Agriculture gypsy moth surveys are done annually. Pest trappers deploy some 20,000 traps statewide to detect any introductions of Asian gypsy moths or beginning infestations of European gypsy moths. Often people see the familiar green or orange tent-shaped traps on trees along roads in the summer.

Port and other maritime areas are especially targeted for Asian gypsy moth detection because this variety normally



*One of the familiar tent-shaped traps often seen on trees along roads in the summer.*

arrives via shipping. The European gypsy moth normally arrives on infested articles or vehicles from the infested Eastern states so trapping is statewide with more traps in highly populated areas.

When an introduction or infestation is detected, eradication is the sole option that will keep Washington free of gypsy moths. To accomplish this, officials select and integrate the best combination of control methods. In most cases, this involves detection and physical destruction of Gypsy moth egg masses, treatment of trees and shrubs with the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (*Btk*), and follow-up trapping – which not only gauges the effectiveness of the earlier treatments, but also contributes to the overall control effort through removing male moths.

The effort to keep this state gypsy moth free has been successful because of the use of pest management tools and because of coordinated and diligent statewide efforts.

For further information on the Gypsy Moth Program, contact Clinton Campbell, managing entomologist, at (360) 664-0905 or by email at [ccampbell@agr.wa.gov](mailto:ccampbell@agr.wa.gov).



When an introduction or infestation is detected, eradication is the sole option that will keep Washington free of gypsy moths.

# Statewide toll-free phone number: 1-877-301-4555

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## Bird netting attracts visit, fine from Labor and Industries

You wouldn't think that a pest control operator could get in a jam for installing bird netting to a building, but that's what happened this past February.

A Labor and Industries (L&I) compliance inspector came across a pest control operator (PCO) attaching bird netting to a building. The L&I inspector explained to the somewhat surprised PCO that a contractor's registration was necessary for this type of work.

The pest specialist was fined \$1,000. He was told that it would be reduced if he registered with L&I within a certain amount of time. The PCO saw the wisdom of complying with L&I registration requirements and accepted the \$500 infraction/penalty reduction.

Upon request by Art Losey and Jack Marlowe of the Washington State Pest Control Association, Dennis Yonker, the Assistant Chief of L&I's Contractor Registration and Compliance section, provided the following explanation:

- **Washington State Contractor Registration Law, (RCW 18.27).** Briefly described, persons, firms, or corporations who make improvements to real property must register with L&I. The registration law is meant to protect consumers and to provide a fair and level playing field for those who comply with state laws.
- Registration consists of having:
  1. Contractor surety bond or signed savings account (\$4,000 for specialty contractors and \$6,000 for general contractors);
  2. Property damage and public liability insurance coverage totaling \$120,000;
  3. Annual registration fee of \$45; and,
  4. A master business license from the Department of Licensing.

Exemption from registration is possible for those who are not engaged in traditional construction contracting activities. However, exempt activities often evolve into work that is deemed "permanent improvement to real property." For example, individuals who clean walls, floors, or windows are performing maintenance that is not a permanent improvement (i.e. attached) to real property.

If, however, repair work involving replacement of dry wall or glazing or replacement or repair of hardwood floors were involved then registration as a contractor would apply.

The bird-netting incident reportedly involved installation of permanent anchors, attachment of guy wires, and netting material. As with the installation of drapery rods, which involves similar attachments and installations, this constitutes a permanent improvement to real property and requires registration.

L&I acknowledges that pesticide applications are not a construction contracting activity but activities associated with them can be. These issues are handled on an individual basis by taking into consideration the magnitude of the project and whether it could be interpreted as a construction contractor activity. For example, the act of drilling into wall cavities to make applications for carpenter ants would require registration as a contractor.

To find out more about contractor registration, visit the L&I Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/lni/scs/>. Additional information is available from Dennis Yonker at (360) 902-6303.



**Change of Address??** Please notify us of any change to your mailing address to ensure you receive future information affecting your pesticide license. Make any changes to the mailing label below and return to WSDA.

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